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Duane A. Stewart III

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re application of	:	Timo Hillebrand, et al.
Application Serial No.	:	10/534,387
International Filing Date	:	November 10, 2003
Title	:	Novel Buffer Formulations for Isolating, Purifying and Recovering Long-Chain and Short-Chain Nucleic Acids
Confirmation No.	:	2884
Attorney Docket No.	:	050372

12/30/2005 HKAYPAGH 00000021 10534387

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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25.00 OP

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mail Stop PCT
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In advance of substantive examination in the above-identified matter, please amend the claims by replacing the previous claims filed in the PCT application with the new claims in this Preliminary Amendment. The Preliminary Amendment includes amendments to the claims only,

and it is believed the new proposed claims are supported fully by the specification and previous claims.

It is believed that the application, as amended herein, requires payment of a fee for only one (1) excess claim. That fee is included herein. It is believed that no extensions of time are necessary to make this application timely. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims following entry of this preliminary amendment) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4553.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks and Conclusions start on page 7 of this paper.